SacWAM Independent Review Panel Member Bios

Josh Viers, Ph.D., Faculty at UC Merced (Panel Chair)

Dr. Viers, former Executive Associate Director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, joined the faculty at UC Merced in August 2013 as an associate professor in the School of Engineering. He also became UC Merced's Director of the Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS), which promotes collaborative research on California's pressing environmental, social and health care problems. His research interests and projects investigate the geospatial aspects of watershed science with a specific focus on the watersheds of the North Coast and the Sierra Nevada. His watershed research activities include aspects of natural flow regimes, climate change, water management, land use, sustainable viticulture, freshwater ecosystem conservation and riparian restoration.

William Fleenor, Ph.D., UC Davis (Co-Lead Author)

Dr. William Fleenor's primary research interests involve hydrodynamic mixing in lakes, rivers, and estuaries as it relates to water quality in natural and engineered systems. He is the leading hydrologic, hydraulic and water quality modeler for the Center for Watershed Sciences. Dr. Fleenor uses field data collection and computer models to examine how physical properties of water influence water quality in rivers, lakes, reservoirs and estuaries. All his work focuses on finding solutions for existing problems. Recent work includes funding from Yolo County, State Water Resources Control Board, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, FEMA, and the Delta Stewardship Council. While recently retired from UC Davis he remains involved with research in the Center for Watershed Sciences.

Samuel Sandoval Solis, Ph.D., Faculty at UC Davis, Center for Watershed Sciences (Co-Lead Author)

Dr. Samuel Sandoval Solis' is an assistant professor and cooperative extension specialist. His expertise is in water resources planning and management. During decision making process, Samuel is the person working between the scientists, engineers, environmentalists, system operators and decision makers; he integrates ideas into policies and quantifies benefits and drawbacks. His research focuses on designing sustainable water resource systems through: shared vision water planning, collaborative modeling, decision support systems; environmental restoration and conservation policies; hydrologic, simulation and optimization models; risk analysis; climate change and adaptive water management strategies. His other work involves hydropower, conflict resolution, geographic information systems, and trans-boundary basins.

Laura E. Condon, Ph.D., Faculty at Syracuse University, NY

Dr. Laura Condon is an assistant professor at Syracuse University. Her research is focused on large-scale water sustainability of managed hydrologic systems in the context of past development and future climate change. Her research combines physically based numerical modeling with statistical techniques to evaluate large systems using rigorous quantitative methods. She is particularly interested in groundwater surface water interactions within the heavily managed systems of Western US. Before joining the faculty at Syracuse University she worked for the Bureau of Reclamation providing technical support for water availability and planning studies in California and across the western US.

Dr. Laura Condon's research is focused on large-scale water sustainability and the dynamic behavior of managed hydrologic systems in the context of past development and future climate change. Studies have demonstrated connections between groundwater depth, soil moisture, land energy fluxes, and large-scale weather patterns; yet few have considered the effect management has on these interactions. Improved characterization of complex system dynamics could provide new avenues for increasing efficiency and mitigating risk. Her work combines physically based numerical modeling with statistical techniques to evaluate large systems using rigorous quantitative methods. Her research and teaching interests include groundwater/surface water interactions, climate change and sustainability, water resources management, system dynamics, numerical methods and high performance computing.

Deanna Sereno, MSCE, Contra Costa Water District

Deanna Sereno is currently the Principal Water Resources Specialist for Contra Costa Water District, where she represents the District and reviews technical studies in support of statewide planning activities. Other work includes analyzing real-time hydrodynamic and water quality conditions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to inform water supply operations, performing modeling of California hydrology and water operations and of Delta hydrodynamics, water quality, and fisheries; conducting scientific studies and investigations, for example, the effect of operational decisions on water quality, salmon, and smelt in the Delta. She developed and maintains a suite of modeling tools to evaluate transport and residence time in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta as a proactive approach to emergency spill response.